

by Roberts of the type locality to Hopetown which is not the case. I have not traced Shelley's "assigning" the type locality to Hopetown. Macdonald proposed to restrict the type locality to Colesburg and, observed that some of Smith's specimens in the British Museum were dark and heavily streaked. Unfortunately the specimens collected by Smith in the British Museum are not labelled with locality, and they are not a uniform series, since some are markedly paler than others, and could have emanated from further north west than Colesburg. No specimen was designated as the type.

Actually Roberts had already earlier (Ann. Trvl. Mus. xvi. 1935. p. 121) disregarded the locality Hopetown, and formally restricted the type locality to Litakun near Kuruman i.e. Latakoo as mentioned by Smith. In the absence of a designated type this was a perfectly correct restriction of the type locality, and cannot be arbitrarily set aside because Smith may have collected some specimens between Graaf Reinet and Colesburg. Under these circumstances the type locality should remain as Litakun.

A New Lark from Nigeria

by MR. C. M. N. WHITE

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Mirafra rufocinnamomea serlei subsp. nov.

Description: compared with the widely ranging West African *M.r. buckleyi*, this form is darker and richer in colour; the upperside is a deep reddish compared with the predominantly greyer *buckleyi*, and the underside is deep tawny ochre compared with the creamy buff of *buckleyi*.

Type: in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.). Collected at Enugu, Eastern region, Nigeria on 4th October, 1952 by Dr. W. Serle. B.M., reg. no. 1955. 59.133.

Distribution: the eastern region of Nigeria north to intergrade with *buckleyi* about the Benue river. Specimens from Lokodja agree well with *serlei* but others from Yola and Loko are somewhat intermediate.

Notes: *buckleyi* extends to Lagos and birds from the north of Nigeria are also referable to *buckleyi*. The new form in its red and deeply coloured plumage bears a slight resemblance to *tigrina* of the Ubangi-Uelle area but *tigrina* is lighter above and more vinous pink. I am grateful to Dr. Serle for the gift of specimens of this lark and to Mrs. Hall for examining these larks with me at the British Museum.

A new subspecies of *Anthoscopus caroli* (Sharpe 1871) from western Tanganyika Territory

by MR. S. ULFSTRAND

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Several subspecies of *Anthoscopus caroli* (Sharpe 1871) s. lat. occur within a comparatively restricted area in Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, S. Tanganyika Territory and S. Belgian Congo. Sometimes they are divided between two species, viz. *A. caroli* (Sharpe 1871) and *A. ansorgei* Hartert 1905. This is the arrangement adopted by Chapin (1954, p. 109).

But to me it appears a better way to follow Praed & Grant (1955, p. 655; see also Grant & Praed 1947-48, p. 74) and consider all the forms conspecific. *A. caroli* is then apparently the older name.

In the course of Oxford University Tanganyika Expedition 1958 a bird collection was obtained by Mr. Hugh F. Lamprey and myself from the Kungwe-Mahali peninsula on Lake Tanganyika in western Tanganyika Territory. This collection contains two interesting specimens of *A. caroli* which have been compared at British Museum (Natural History) with types and/or topotypical material as far as available of the following forms which seem to be relevant:—

1. *A. c. caroli* (Sharpe 1871): Damaraland.
2. *A. c. sylvielli* Reichenow 1904: NE. Tanganyika Territory down to Iringa and Rungwe.
3. *A. c. ansorgei* Hartert 1905: S. Belgian Congo and N. Angola.
4. *A. c. robertsi* Haagner 1909: E. Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, and N. Portuguese East Africa.
5. *A. c. rhodesiae* Sclater 1932: Ufipa in SW. Tanganyika Territory, N. Northern Rhodesia, and S. Belgian Congo near Elisabethville.
6. *A. c. winterbottomi* White 1946: Mwinilunga area in NW. Northern Rhodesia.

Careful comparison shows that the Kungwe-Mahali specimens are clearly different from all the above subspecies. In spite of the meagre material and awaiting a review of the genus, it therefore seems convenient to separate the Kungwe-Mahali birds subspecifically.

Anthoscopus caroli pallescens, n. ssp.

Description: Upperside greenish grey with green wash clearer on rump; forehead pale yellowish grey; whole underside from chin to tail-coverts greyish with a slight yellowish wash and but the very slightest touch of buff on under tail-coverts.

The new subspecies thus differs from ssp. *caroli*, *sylvielli*, and *robertsi* in the very nearly complete absence of buff or tawny on the underparts, and from *ansorgei*, *rhodesiae* and *winterbottomi* in the pale green colour on the upperparts.

Type: In the collection of the Zoological Museum, University of Lund, Sweden. Male, collected on 21st August, 1958, on Kabesi Ridge, east of Mt. Kungwe, Kungwe-Mahali peninsula, E. shore of Lake Tanganyika. Altitude approx. 5,500 ft. Colour of soft parts: bill slate grey, tarsus and feet blackish, iris brown. Measurements of type: wing 57 mm, tail 34 mm, bill from cranial hinge 8 mm.

Another male shot on 6th September, 1958, at Kibwesa, Kungwe-Mahali peninsula, at an altitude of approx. 2,800 ft. perfectly agrees in colour and has measurements: wing 53 mm, tail 34 mm, bill 8 mm. Both males were in song and in the company of a (presumed) mate when killed. The song was recorded as a high-pitched sibilant trill: "see-see-see..." gradually dying away.

The habitat of both the specimens and all other individuals recorded was *Brachystegia* woodland. The species was not uncommon in the highland type of "miombo" on Kabesi Ridge where the trees were generally in leaf. They usually occurred in mixed bird parties with *Hyliota flavigaster barbozae* Hartlaub, *Eremomela scotops citriniceps* (Reichenow), *Alseonax adustus fülleborni* (Reichenow) and *Salpornis spilonota salvadori* (Bocage).

In the lowland, however, where the second specimen was obtained, the species was scarce, for the pair, out of which the male was shot, was the only record within that zone.

The general distribution of the new subspecies remains to be worked out.

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A New Race of Crowned Plover

Vanellus (Stephanibyx) coronatus (Boddaert) from South-West Africa

by MR. P. A. CLANCEY

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Study of material of the Crowned Plover *Vanellus (Stephanibyx) coronatus* (Boddaert) recently collected in South-West Africa by members of the staffs of the Durban and East London Museums (May-June, 1959), shows that the populations of that territory are composed of distinctly lighter and greyer coloured birds than those of the Cape Province (topotypical of *V.(S.)c.coronatus*) and the eastern half of southern Africa. Friedmann, *Proc. New England Zool. Club*, 1928, vol. x, in his revision of the races of this wide-ranging species, recognised three forms: the widely dispersed nominate race, and two localized races (*V.(S.)c.demissus* (Friedmann), 1928: Suk-Soda, British Somaliland, and *V.(S.)c.susplicax* (Friedmann), 1928: Sadi Malka, Abyssinia) at the north-eastern end of the species' range. The pronounced characters shown by the South-West African Crowned Plovers more than fully justify the recognition of these distinct occidental populations as an additional race by name, which may be known as

Vanellus (Stephanibyx) coronatus xerophilus, subsp. nov.

Type: ♀, adult. Farm Elizabethhill, near Okahandja, Damaraland, central South-West Africa. Altitude 5100 ft. a.s.l. 13th May, 1959. Durban Museum Expedition. In the collection of the Durban Museum, South Africa.

Diagnosis: Differs abruptly from *V.(S.)c.coronatus* (Boddaert), 1783: Cape of Good Hope, i.e., Cape Province, South Africa, of South Africa and the eastern half of the continent north to Kenya and, perhaps, southern Somalia, in the distinctly lighter and greyer upper-parts (slightly greyer than Vinaceous-Buff as against Buffy Brown (*vide* Ridgway, *Color Standards and Color Nomenclature*, 1912, pl. xl). Using the *Colour Atlas* of C. and J. Villalobos, 1947, the back of newly moulted *V.(S.)c.xerophilus* gives a reading of 00S-10-3° as against 0-7-2° in the nominate race. On the under-parts paler, this particularly noticeable on the breast, which is quite without the overlay of Buffy Brown present in *V.(S.)c.coronatus*. The